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Message Text

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44
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 161632Z JAN 76
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TO SECSTATE WSHDC 7380
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, EEC, NL
SUBJ: DUTCH OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON TIDEMAN REPORT

REF: THE HAGUE 0039

1. SUMMARY: FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTRY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR EUROPEAN COOPERATION ITALIANER TOLD DCM AND ECON COUNS JAN 15 THAT GON HAD NOT YET DEVELOPED OFFICIAL, AGREED POSITION ON REPORT. HE EXPECT FONMIN LEVEL MEETING WITH BENELUX PARTNERS WOULD HELP TO CLARIFY GON'S ASSESSMENT. HE EXPRESSED PERSONAL OPINION THAT REPORT OUTLINED PROBLEM AREAS, CONTAINED SOME CONTRADICTORY ELEMENTS, ESPECIALLY ON FORMING EC POLICIES ON EXTERNAL RELATIONS, GENERALLY LACKED SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS, BUT WOULD CERTAINLY STIMULATE USEFUL DISCUSSION. END SUMMARY.

2. ITALIANER SAID IT WAS UNREALISTIC AND TOO EARLY IN TERMS OF ORDERLY EVALUATION TO EXPECT COMMON AGREEMENT ON MANY
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EXTERNAL FRONTS.HE CITED, FOR EXAMPLE, IMPOSSIBIBILITY

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OF PUTTING ALL DEVELOPMENT AID IN ONE EC POT WHEN THERE WERE SUCH VARIANCES IN AMOUNT, TYPE, AND PHILOSOPHY BEHIND EACH COUNTRY'S FOREIGN AID PROGRAM. HE ALSO THOUGHT IT WOULD BE MOST DISRUPTIVE TO TRY TO FORCE UK TO ACCEPT A SECONDARY POSITION IN TWO-TIER EC MONETARY ARRANGEMENTS. HE THEN DEVELOPED THEME THAT MAJORITY RULE IN EXTERNAL RELATIONS WAS UNREALISTIC SINCE FRANCE, UK, AND GERMANY WOULD NEVER CONCEDE STRONGLY HELD POSITIONS AND VIEWS OF SMALLER STATES WOULD BE OVERRIDDEN WITHOUT SAFEGUARDS AND CHECKS AND BALANCES PROVIDED BY ROME TREATY FOR INTERNAL EC RELATIONS. HE ALSO BELIEVED ANY DECISIONS IN EXTERNAL AREA SHOULD BE MADE IN LIGHT OF IMPACT ON PROSPECTIVE NEW MEMBERS SUCH AS GREECE. HE CONCLUDED THAT EC WAS MAKING SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS ON NUMBER OF EXTERNAL ISSUES SUCH AS DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY TOWARD MIDDLE EAST AND ON ENERGY, AND PROGRESS IN OTHER AREAS WOULD ALSO EVOLVE AND SHOULD NOT BE FORCED.

3. ITALIANER SPECULATED THAT MAIN CONSIDERATION OF REPORT WOULD NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL EC PRIME MINISTERS MEETING IN MARCH, ALTHOUGH IT WOULD PROBABLY ALSO BE TOUCHED UPON DURING JAN 19-20 MEETING OF POLITICAL DIRECTORS. HE THOUGHT LOGICAL DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE PHRASING OF SPECIFIC QUESTIONS TO BE REFERRED TO MEMBER GOVERNMENTS WITH RESPONSES TO BE PROVIDED AT FOLLOWING QUARTERLY MEETING OF PM'S. MEANTIME THERE WOULD BE OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL ELEMENTS IN MEMBER GOVERNMENTS TO CONSIDER RAMIFICATIONS OF REPORT. COUNCIL INPUT WOULD ALSO MOVE MATTERS ALONG.

4. ITALIANER AGREED THAT IN MANY RESPECTS TINDEMAN TOOK AMBIGUOUS POSITION. EVEN WHEN HE STARTED WITH AN EXPLICITY OBJECTIVE HIS ENSUING COMMENTS FAILED TO BUTTRESS HIS INITIAL VIEWPOINT. WE GAINED THE IMPRESSION THAT ITALIANER AT LEAST WAS SOMEWHAT DISAPPOINTED IN THE REPORT BOTH BECAUSE IT DID NOT IN MOST RESPECTS GO BEYOND IDENTIFYING PROBLEMS AND BECAUSE IN PART WHERE IT MADE SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS THEY WERE PATENTLY UNREALISTIC IN LIGHT OF COMMUNITY HISTORY AND KNOWN MEMBER POSITIONS. IT EMERGED CLEARLY FROM CONVERSATION THAT DUTCH SO FAR HAVE EXAMINED REPORT ON OWN BEHALF AND HAVE HAD NO DISCUSSIONS WITH EEC PARTNERS.
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